

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DISTRIBUTED  
NETWORK AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An electronic commerce distributed network is disclosed that includes a plurality of interconnected processing nodes. Each processing node (50) includes a first sub-node (52) and a second sub-node (54) that are connected to communicate information and are in geographically remote locations. The first sub-node (52) of each processing node (50) has an active state in which the first sub-node (52) communicates with other processing nodes and processes electronic commerce messages communicated with originator/recipient organizations. The second sub-node (54) of each processing node (50) has a mirror state in which the second sub-node (54) mirrors the first sub-node (52) as well as an active state in which the second sub-node (54) communicates with other processing nodes and processes electronic commerce messages communicated with originator/recipient organizations. The first sub-node (52) of each processing node (50) is initially in the active state, and the second sub-node (54) is initially in the mirror state. The second sub-node (54) is operable to switch to the active state if the first sub-node (52) fails, such that each processing node in the electronic commerce distributed network can maintain operation in the event the first sub-node of that processing node experiences failure.

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